

Name \_\_\_\_\_

ENGLISH 12

*Pygmalion Reader Response: Act Two*

*Directions:* The reader's response is a short (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to one page), informal written reaction to a section of text. Reader's responses are most useful and analytical when you pick an narrow topic and "dig deep." For each act, I have chosen a topic for you to discuss, typically relating to a major theme or issue within the play. Your job is to read the prompt and respond in a detailed and thoughtful fashion. Write your response on a separate sheet of paper and attach to the prompt.

*Act Two: Middle Class Morality*

- ❖ Why do you think it might be easier for well-to-do people to uphold moral standards? Why would Mr. Doolittle say that he is much too poor to have morals?
- ❖ Pay attention to his speech about "middle class morality" and the implications of having money, even when it's just a little bit. How does life change when a person has money? What behaviors, attitudes, and etc. are required of an upper class individual versus a homeless person?
- ❖ Don't forget to explain your reaction to Doolittle's idea of "middle class morality."

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*Pygmalion Reader Response: Act Four*

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*Act Four: "I didn't sell myself"*

- ❖ "I sold flowers. I didn't sell myself. Now you've made a lady of me I'm not fit to sell anything else. I wish you'd left me where you found me."
- ❖ What does Liza mean when she says this to Higgins? Is she right? Does she have a right to be angry with Higgins, especially after the successful transformation has occurred? Where has Higgins gone wrong? How has he failed Liza? Would she have been better off selling flowers and being a "guttersnipe"?
- ❖ In what ways does Higgins' treatment of Liza impel her to seek independence?

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*Pygmalion Reader Response: Act Five*

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*Act Five: Who wins?*

- ❖ The ending of *Pygmalion* is left fairly ambiguous, with Higgins requesting Liza do menial tasks for him and Liza insisting that she is out of there and will bow to Higgins no longer.
- ❖ In your opinion, what happens after the final curtain closes? Does Liza follow through with the independent lifestyle she claims she will live, or does she go back to Higgins and live a life of subservience? Does Liza "win" in the end, or does Higgins?

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